

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

The Official Action dated 16 November 2005 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules, the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and relevant decisional law.

Claim 1 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, because the specification, while being enabling for the engaging members engaging with each other about or around the user, does not reasonably provide enablement for the article to be engaged or attached to the user. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims.

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lovison USPN 4022212.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is significantly different from that of the cited arts as can be seen from their respective structures. Applicant's invention as specified in the amended claims 1 and 3-5 is patentably distinguishable over these references when taken either singularly or in combination for the following reasons:

The Examiner cites Lovison as an example of a panty element A and a sanitary napkin B, and first engaging member 31 on the front panel and second engaging member 31 on the rear panel, which can be engaged without engaging a user's legs through the panty element.

As to claims 2-4, each of the front and rear panels 13, 15 have a free edge to which the engaging members are attached.

As to claim 5, the engaging member comprise hook-and-loop engaging members.

However, actually, in Lovison, the looped fibers 70 of the sanitary napkin B are required to be attached or engaged to the fastening strip 30 of the panty element A with the hands of the user, such that the absorbent pad 45 will have a good chance to be contacted and dirtied by the hands of the user.

In addition, within or after the period, when taking off or when changing or when disengaging the absorbent pad 45 from the panty element A, the blood absorbed within the absorbent pad 45 may also have a good chance to be contacted by the hands of the user.

Furthermore, the looped fibers 70 of the sanitary napkin B and the fastening strip 30 of the panty element A will be located and engaged between the legs of the user, and the legs of the user will have a good chance to be scraped or scrubbed by the looped fibers 70 of the sanitary napkin B and the fastening strip 30 of the panty element A.

By contrast, in Applicant's invention, as amended in the amended claims 1 and 3-5, a panty element (10) includes a crotch (11) provided between and formed integral with the front panel (12) and the rear panel (13) of the panty element (10), and a sanitary napkin (20) disposed on the crotch (11) of the panty element (10) for engaging onto private parts of the user, and engaging members (16, 17) for attaching the panty element (10) onto the abdominal portion of the user.

It is to be noted that the sanitary napkin (20) is disposed on the crotch (11) of the panty element (10) and will not be contacted by the hands of the users. In addition, the engaging members (16, 17)

will not be engaged between and scraped or scrubbed by the legs of the user.

The cited arts fail to teach a sanitary napkin (20) disposed on the crotch (11) of the panty element (10), and the crotch (11) is formed integral with the front panel (12) and the rear panel (13) of the panty element (10) for preventing the sanitary napkin (20) from being contacted by the hands of the users. The applicant's invention is different from that of the cited arts and has improved over the cited arts.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is patentably distinguishable over the cited arts and that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner STEPHENS are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

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